

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /058 W

----- 007507

R 020938Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7605

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

COMUSMACHAI BKK TH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, TH, TW

SUBJECT: GROC UNOFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH THAILAND

REF: (A) TAIPEI 0652 (B) BANGKOK 0685 (NOTAL)

1. SINCE THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT (RTG) AND THE GROC REACHED AGREEMENT ON UNOFFICIAL RELATIONS IN AUGUST, 1975, TEN INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN SENT FROM TAIWAN TO SUPPLEMENT THE CHINA AIRLINES STAFF IN BANGKOK. THOUGH THESE PERSONNEL OSTENSIBLY WORK FOR CHANA AIRLINES, THEY ARE RECOGNIZED AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GROC. THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GROC AND RTG CALLED FOR A MAXIMUM OF 26 ADDITIONAL PEOPLE TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE CHINA AIRLINES OFFICE. THE GROC OFFICE IS SEPARATE FROM THE REGULAR CHINA AIRLINES TICKET OFFICE AND IS LOCATED IN THE SHELL BUILDING ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY.

THE DELAY IN ASSIGNING UNOFFICIAL RTG REPRESENTATIVES TO THAI INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES OFFICES IN TAIPEI STEMMED
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FROM DIFFICULTY IN ARRIVING AT ALLOWANCES AUTHORIZED FOR

THESE PERSONNEL FROM THAI MFA. THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIVE MAN RTG TEAM IN TAIWAN NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE IS STILL A DEGREE OF HOSTILITY TOWARD THE GROC IN THE RTG FOREIGN MINISTRY AS EVINCED IN REF B. ADDITIONALLY, A THAI MFA OFFICER CONCERNED WITH EAST ASIAN AFFAIRS RECENTLY TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH AGAINST THE ASSIGNMENT OF GROC OFFICIALS IN AN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY IN THAILAND, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL OFFICE. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL CHINA AIRLINES EMPLOYEES OUT IN THE OPEN, BEHIND A TICKET COUNTER AND NOT TUCKED AWAY IN AN OFFICE IN THE SHELL BUILDING. HE IMPLIED THAT THEY WERE ENGAGING IN NEFARIOUS CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES. OBVIOUSLY, THE FINAL DECISION WENT AGAINST HIS OWN VIEWS, BUT THIS FEELING OF WANTING TO IMPOSE STRICT LIMITS ON GROC ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE PRC EMBASSY IN PROBABLY WIDESPREAD IN THE THAI MFA.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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